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NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS & COLLEGES, INC.  
COMMISSION ON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

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May 14, 2013

Matthew Geary  
Principal  
Manchester High School  
134 East Middle Turnpike  
Manchester, CT 06040

Dear Mr. Geary:

The Committee on Public Secondary Schools, at its April 7-8, 2013 meeting, reviewed the Special Progress Report of Manchester High School, continued the school's accreditation, and removed the school from warning for the Standard for Accreditation on School Culture and Leadership (formerly Leadership and Organization) acknowledging significant progress to address cited deficiencies.

Specifically, the Committee was pleased to commend the following:

- the comprehensive five-year school improvement plan which includes the establishment of Professional Learning Communities, a focus on Tier 1 instructional practices, and a referral system for accessing tiered interventions
- the meaningful involvement of teachers, support staff, students, and parents in the development of the school improvement plan
- the myriad steps taken to address issues of respect in the school, including the development and use of the acronym, IMAGINE, that is posted throughout the building, surveys, school-wide professional training, the training of the school climate committee, the review of race relations, and the collective and collaborative work of the professional and support staffs
- the focus on improving students' daily and classroom attendance with improved results
- the adjustments to the school's advisory program which will be fully reintegrated in the upcoming school year
- the academic support program for freshmen
- the plans to transition into several Smaller Learning Communities
- the English department's revised curriculum that has essential questions and performance tasks designed to increase students' depth of understanding

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- the comprehensiveness of the report submitted under the leadership of the principal

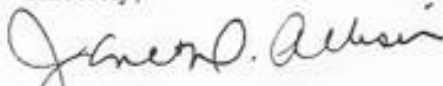
The Committee was equally pleased to acknowledge the following facilities improvements: major renovations to the weight room; the upgrades to the pool; the replacement of furniture in eight general classrooms; and the inclusion of additional facilities upgrades in the 2013-14 school year.

School officials are reminded the required Five-Year Progress Report is due March 1, 2014. The report should include, *in Section 1*, detailed responses to the three recommendations identified in the Committee's notification letter dated May 29, 2012. The report should also include detailed responses to the following highlighted recommendations resulting from the review of the Special Progress Report:

- submit the curriculum review/revision cycle for all departments confirming the alignment with the Common Core
- confirm the reintegration of the advisory program for all students including a description of the major changes made to more effectively meet the needs of the students
- confirm completion of the facilities upgrades scheduled for the 2103-14 school year funded through the capital improvement budget
- report progress made by the joint building committee related to future facilities improvements

The Committee will review the school's accreditation status when it considers the Five-Year Progress Report. Consistent with the Committee's follow-up procedures, the Five-Year Progress Report should include an electronic signature of the principal and chair of the Follow-Up Committee and be sent electronically to the Committee office at the following address: [cpssreports@neasc.org](mailto:cpssreports@neasc.org).

Sincerely,



Janet D. Allison

JDA/sb

cc: Richard Kiesel, Interim Superintendent, Manchester Public Schools  
Christopher Pattacini, Chairperson, Manchester Board of Education  
Robert E. Littlefield, Chair, Committee on Public Secondary Schools